

VAAP CONTINUES

POLLUTION FIGHT

7-12-15-67
Completes 15 of 22

Measures to Halt Contamination

Fifteen of 22 projects to control water and air pollution at the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant have been completed and work is being done on the others, Maj. James A. Slater, VAAP commanding officer, said Thursday in presenting a motion picture, "The Chattanooga Volunteer."

The film tells the story of what has been and is being done at VAAP to whip the pollution problems.

Of the 15 which have been completed, 12 involve control of water pollution and three involve air.

A fourth measure to reduce the air pollutants, switching from coal to natural gas, is almost completed.

Five air pollution control steps are scheduled to be completed between now and next September. A sixth involves a pilot plant which is to be ready by the first of the year.

The major air contaminants are oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulphur, acid mist and particulates which were relatively low during most of this year.

The acid mist, which causes the disintegration of women's hose and irritates eyes, throat and lungs, had a slight rise in August but was quite low in September and October according to the chart. The officials have strong hopes that a Brinks filter installation, scheduled to be completed in April, will bring fully effective control to acid mist.

Officials at the plant acknowledge that the sight of materials coming out of stacks, including the orange oxides of nitrogen, and the odors create serious problems as far as the public is concerned.

The film, produced for the Army Munitions Command, Dover, N. J., by the pictorial division of the Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 25-minute color presentation of the problems and the control measures in the program at the plant.

The operations and efforts are interestingly presented. The film will be available to local civic organizations, schools and other interested groups.

FLORIDA FIRM IS LOW ON VAAP GAS CLEANER

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—A \$328,777 bid was received by Army engineers Thursday for construction of gas scrubbers to ease air pollution resulting from the manufacture of TNT at Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant at Tyner, Tenn.

The apparent low bid was by Indian River Construction Co. of Jacksonville, Fla. Airetron Engineering Corp. of Midland Park, N.J., was second apparent low among the seven bidders with an offer of \$406,400. The government estimate was \$396,969.

The successful bidder will design and construct a gas scrubber system to remove solid particles and odor from the final exhaust of 12 incinerator stacks at the red water plant at the Army installation.

The Mobile district office said the project is part of a national program for reducing air and water pollution throughout the nation.

Army Ammunition Plant Boosts Local Economy

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By FRED SCHNEIDER

Operation of the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant during 1967 has jumped \$45,829,208.06 into the local economy and has provided employment for an average of 2,669 area residents.

These figures were released Friday by Maj. James J. Slater, commanding officer of the TNT producing plant at Tyner. They reflect the tremendous impact of the operation on the community.

The average employment total was made up as follows: Workers employed by Atlas Chemical Industries Inc., the contract operator of the plant, 2,551; the number employed by Farmers Chemical Association Inc. required because the chemicals supplied to the ammunition plant in addition to those needed to make fertilizer, 77, and employed by the U.S. government at the plant, 41.

Salaries called for the expenditure of \$15,287,045.73. An additional \$1,035 was awarded to employees for suggestions.

Other local expenditures, for materials, supplies and services, totaled \$30,541,127.33.

The commanding officer listed the expenditures for pollution control at \$3.9 million. In January of this year the plant had eight of its lines in operation and since February it has operated 10 lines at full capacity.

The TNT made at Tyner is supplied to other Army and Navy plants for use in bombs, rockets, mines, artillery shells, grenades, mortar rounds and bulk explosives.

The present plan is to stop production Dec. 25 and 26 in observance of the Christmas holidays.

Originally known as the Volunteer Ordnance Works, the TNT plant operated during World War II, at the close of which it was placed in standby. It was reactivated for the Korean conflict. It was then placed back in standby and was reactivated a second time as a result of the Vietnam fighting.

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